


**REMARKS**

Claims 1-27 remain pending in this application. The amendment to the specification was merely to cross-reference the priority applications. The amendments to the claims were made to comply with U.S. patent practice and more clearly define the patentable invention therein. No new matter has been added by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner of hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By:   
Charles Gorenstein  
Reg. No. 29,271

CG/DKD/gf  
(703) 205-8000  
4633-0103P

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747